

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

We write today in support of the application submitted by the South Carolina Ports Authority (SCPA) for an Infrastructure Development Program grant. We ask you give their proposal full consideration under all appropriate guidelines and regulations.

The SCPA is seeking \$19.986 million to complete an underwater toe wall at South Carolina's busiest container terminal, the Wando Welch Terminal. The completion of the toe wall is a critical infrastructure investment, supporting the Charleston Harbor Deepening Project by stabilizing the Wando Welch Terminal's wharf structure, retaining sediment, and preventing material from migrating into the waterway.

Upon completion of the Charleston Harbor Deepening Project, the Port of Charleston will have the deepest harbor on the East Coast. The 52-foot depth of the harbor will allow NeoPanamax ships to call the port at any time, and the construction of a toe wall will provide necessary wharf access for these deeper drafting vessels.

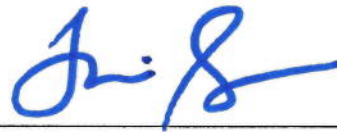
The SCPA is the top economic development engine for South Carolina, providing over 187,200 jobs and generating \$53 billion in annual statewide economic activity. Improvements to the SCPA's container terminal facilities at the Port of Charleston are critical to regional economic prosperity and ensure that the United States remains competitive in a growing world economy.

Thank you for your consideration of this application. If we can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

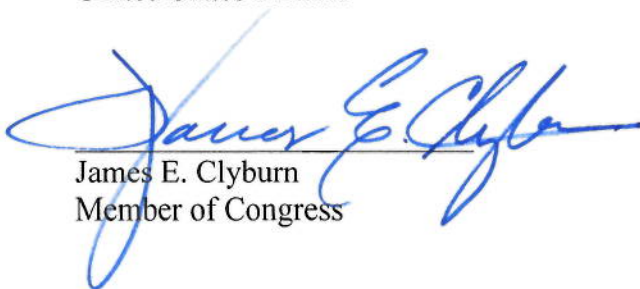
Sincerely,



Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator



Tim Scott
United States Senator




James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress




Joe Wilson
Member of Congress




Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Tom Rice
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



William Timmons
Member of Congress



Joe Cunningham
Member of Congress